*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*

*Act II, Scene 1*

* The fairies are introduced. Love creates more troubles, even in the supernatural realm. Oberon and Titania (King and Queen of the Fairies) argue like any young mortal couple.
* Titania refuses to give up her “changeling boy”, and Oberon is angry at not getting his own way.
* However, because they are supernatural beings, their quarrel has an impact on the natural world and the people in it (118-182).
* (148-177) Oberon sends Puck (aka: Robin Goodfellow – his servant) to fetch a magic flower. This flower was inadvertently struck by one of Cupid’s arrows. The juice of the flower will make an individual fall in love with the first thing it sees, after it is applied. Oberon intends to place a spell on Titania, to mock her and get his own way.
* On one hand, this appears to be a typical fairy prank. On the other hand, it could be perceived as manipulative and spiteful. Titania is supposed to be his Queen, after all – someone he loves.
* (192-248) Helena throws herself at Demetrius, who spurns her advances. Her words demonstrate desperation, a lack of dignity and very little self respect (“I am your spaniel…” lines 207-214).
* Despite Demetrius’s threats, she will not leave. He says:
* He doesn’t love her
* She makes him sick
* Her reputation may be damaged if people hear she has been out in the woods alone with him.
* Says he may harm her if she doesn’t go away.
* Oberon has been watching, and instructs Puck to find Demetrius and apply the potion.
* *Act II, scene ii*
* Lysander and Hermia are lost and decide to rest. Though they profess to be very much in love, they are careful with the sleeping arrangements. They are not yet married, and for now remain a “…bachelor and a maid (58).
* Puck mistakes Hermia and Lysander for Helena and Demetrius. He does as he has been told, and applies the potion to Lysander, believing him to be the young man Oberon had said “Despised the Athenian maid” (72).
* Hermia cannot keep pace with Demetrius, and stumbles across a sleeping Lysander. He awakens and is immediately enchanted with Helena. Apparently, Hermia is sleeping far enough away from the commotion, and is not disturbed.
* Lysander renounces his love for Hermia. This angers Helena. She thinks Lysander is making fun of her.
* Hermia awakens to find herself alone.